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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: Kristy Peterson et al. Docket No.: 17391
Serial No.: 10/026,200 Group: 1744
Confirmation No: 8445 Examiner:
Filed: December 21, 2001 Date: February 22, 2002



For: CARRIER AND SPECIMEN-HANDLING TOOL
FOR USE IN DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

**Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)
Before First Office Action or Within Three Months of Filing Date**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 et seq., Applicants, through and by their attorneys, hereby wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the modified PTO 1449 Form and the copies of those documents presented herewith for the Examiner's review and convenience.

By inclusion of any given document in this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants in no way admit that such document is effective as prior art against the above-identified application under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103.

Additionally, submission of any document is not to be taken as an admission of the materiality of the document to the prosecution of the present application.

The Examiner is requested to review each cited document and personally determine its prior art status.

Applicants recommend that the Examiner conduct an independent search for any and all available material prior art and independently review the results of such search and the documents cited within this Statement.

Applicants request the Examiner, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, to indicate and make of record receipt and review of all of these documents by initialing the appropriate box in the accompanying PTO-1449. Applicants request that the undersigned receive a copy of the initialed PTO-1449.

If the Examiner refuses to consider any or all of the herein submitted materials because it is the Examiner's opinion that this Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned, in writing, as to the basis of such opinion.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: 770-587-8612.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTY PETERSON ET AL.

Rv: Nancy Klembus
Nancy M. Klembus

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Erminia Brown, hereby certify that on February 22, 2002 this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: Erminia Brown
Erminia Brown